

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q82391

Jacheon LEE, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/501,007

Group Art Unit: 1625

Confirmation No.: 1859

Examiner: Raymond K. Covington

Filed: July 8, 2004

For: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF SIMVASTATIN

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 6, 2006, applicants submit the following remarks in this response.

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are all the claims pending in the application. No amendment has been made.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman et al. US 4,444,784 taken with Taoka et al. US 6,331,641 (US equivalent of WO 00/34264) in view of Dabora et al. US 5,159,104. Applicants respectfully traverse for the following reasons.

Hoffman et al. is relied upon to teach a method of preparing simvastatin from lovastatin by hydrolyzing the lactone ring using lithium hydroxide followed by relactonizing, protecting the hydroxyl group on the lactone ring, then acylating with 2,2-dialkylbutyryl acid and deprotecting the lactone hydroxyl group.